

A species was found by me growing abundantly on *Poa pratensis* in November and again late in December. This Bessey calls *Erysiphe communis* Schl., while Trelease assigns it to *E. graminis* DC. As yet only the conidial phase has been studied and finding of perithecia will be necessary to positively decide the species.

BRIEFER ARTICLES.

Aspidium Oreopteris Swz.—The only American station hitherto recorded for this species has been the Island of Unalaska, where it was discovered by Mr. L. M. Turner in 1878, but by the past season's searches of that indefatigable worker, Professor Macoun, Naturalist of the Geological Survey of Canada, it is now located on the North American continent proper, and no less than about 1,600 miles east of the former station. It was found August 22, 1885, on Mount Dawson, at the summit of the Canada Pacific Railway pass through the Selkirk Range, British Columbia, a little south of lat. 51° . The patches, which were fairly abundant, grew on a comparatively dry slope of the mountain, at an altitude of 6,500 feet, or a little less, and also in wetter soil and at a greater altitude, on a neighboring mountain, the upper slopes of which were covered by a glacier.

The fronds of the Canadian plants are narrower and more graceful looking, both as a whole and in all their parts, than those of the Unalaskan and most European forms, but Professor Eaton, to whom a specimen was sent, writes me that he has one from Mettenius which is as narrow and slender as these. The largest of the specimens received from Mr. Macoun has fronds $1\frac{1}{2}$ feet high, of which $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches forms the stalk, while the middle pinnæ are only $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches long. The segments, the basal ones of which are often large in proportion to those next them, are but little more than a line in width, and the under surface is but very slightly glandular.—T. J. W. BURGESS, M. D., *London, Ontario, Canada.*

A Cheap Camera.—A good substitute for a more expensive camera-lucida for the microscope can be made as follows:

Cut a piece of thin metal, brass or copper, or even tin will do, in the form of a letter L. After smoothing the edges, bend one limb into an unclosed band, to clasp the end of the eye-piece after the cap is removed. Clasp the other limb near its juncture with the ring, with a pair of pliers, and twist it on its own axis through an angle of 90° . On the outer end bend a cock-eye to hold a piece of wood, in the end of which make a slight split and insert the edge of a cover-glass to serve as a mirror. Of course both the image and the pencil-point are seen by looking through the glass, the former by reflected and the latter by transmitted light. The light reflected is sufficient to give good definition when ordinary powers are used. In this way each member of a class can easily make a camera for himself.